Please amend claim 5 as follows:

5. (Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein receiving an electronic indication of an inventory allocation includes receiving said allocation over the Internet.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein requesting an electronic indication of inventory allocation includes determining whether the inventory allocation needs to be replenished.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein determining whether the inventory allocation needs to be replenished includes determining whether an inventory allocation has been reduced through the completion of on-line transactions below a preset level.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

8. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein determining whether the inventory allocation needs to be replenished includes determining the rate at which on-line transactions are being completed and implementing a dynamic calculation that considers the rate at which on-line transactions are being completed.

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

10. (Amended) An article comprising a medium for storing instructions that enable a computer to:
    receive an electronic indication of an inventory allocation;

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complete a plurality of on-line sales transactions against said allocation; and

in response to the depletion of said allocation, automatically request additional dedicated inventory allocation.

[Please amend claim 11 as follows:]

11. (Amended) The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that enable a computer to maintain a count of available inventory allocation and decrement said count as each on-line transaction occurs.

[Please amend claim 12 as follows:]

12. (Amended) The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that enable a computer to receive an inventory allocation from a remote site.

[Please amend claim 13 as follows:]

13. (Amended) The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that enable a computer to receive said allocation over a network.

[Please amend claim 14 as follows:]

14. (Amended) The article of claim 13 further storing instructions that enable a computer to receive said allocation over the Internet.

[Please amend claim 15 as follows:]

15. (Amended) The article of claim 10 further storing instructions that enable a computer to determine whether to request an additional inventory allocation based on the number of on-line sales transactions completed against said allocation.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

16. (Amended) The article of claim 15 further storing instructions that enable a computer to determine whether the existing allocation has been reduced below a preset level.

Please amend claim 17 as follows:

17. (Amended) The article of claim 15 further storing instructions that enable a computer to implement a dynamic calculation that considers the rate at which on-line transactions are being completed.

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

18. (Amended) The article of claim 17 further storing instructions that enable a computer to utilize the rate at which transactions are completed and the rate at which additional inventory is to be requested to determine whether the inventory allocation needs to be replenished.

Please amend claim 23 as follows:

23. (Amended) A method comprising:

providing an electronic allocation of an inventory allocation;

receiving a request for an additional inventory allocation;

providing an additional inventory allocation.

Please amend claim 25 as follows:

25. (Amended) A method of claim 23 including providing the indication of an inventory allocation over the Internet.

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Please amend claim 26 as follows:

26.   (Amended)   An article comprising a medium that stores instructions that enable a computer to:

provide an electronic indication of an inventory allocation;

receive a request for additional inventory allocation; and

provide additional inventory allocation in response to said request.

Please amend claim 27 as follows:

27.   (Amended)   The article of claim 26 further storing instructions that enable a computer to provide a frequency for requests for additional allocation.

Please amend claim 28 as follows:

28.   (Amended)   The article of claim 26 further storing instructions that enable a computer to provide said inventory allocation over the Internet.

REMARKS

Claim 1, as amended, calls for receiving an electronic indication of an inventory allocation. A plurality of on-line sales transactions are completed against the allocation. In response to the depletion of the allocation, additional inventory allocation is automatically requested.

Thus, in some embodiments, a distributor may receive a known quantity of inventory that is reserved for his or her distribution. That distributor may then be confident that if the distributor completes sales against that inventory, the inventory will be available. Moreover, the method includes

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